



City of Sunnyvale

Agenda Item

15-0126

Agenda Date: 1/30/2015

2015 COUNCIL STUDY ISSUE

NUMBER

DPW 15-11

TITLE Consider Development of Weekday School Facilities on Park Properties

BACKGROUND

Lead Department: Public Works
Support Department(s): N/A

Sponsor(s):

Councilmembers: Whittum, Meyering and Davis

History:

1 year ago: N/A
2 years ago: N/A

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

What are the key elements of the study?

Occasionally schools and other organizations request the exclusive use of public open space. Some examples of this are the ongoing permitted use of sports facilities at Fair Oaks Park by The King's Academy (a private school), the proposed use of portions of Raynor Park by Stratford School, and the possible use of a portion of Baylands Park by Animal Assisted Happiness currently under study.

Council has previously developed exclusive use permit policies for Sunnyvale Parks and Open Spaces through action related to Report to Council 05-358. Current policy allows for schools to obtain exclusive use permits in accordance with Municipal Code 9.62.120 Permit for exclusive use-Application-Standards. Section 9.62.120(b)(7) states "That the use for which the permit is sought complies with the use established for the area of the park requested". Therefore, current policy and code allows for a school to obtain a permit to use basketball courts at a park but doesn't allow a school to locate a classroom on a sports field.

The scope of this study would focus on the community perspective and the legality of this type of use. Public input would be gathered through public meetings and an online survey. Public Works staff would work in conjunction with the Office of the City Attorney to determine the legality of using public open space for school facilities.

What precipitated this study?

A new charter school named SPARK that is associated with the Sunnyvale School District has expressed an interest in using portions of Baylands Park for its campus.

Planned Completion Year: 2015

FISCAL IMPACT

Cost to Conduct Study

Level of staff effort required (opportunity cost): Moderate

Amount of funding above current budget required: \$0

Cost to Implement Study Results

Unknown. Study would include assessment of potential costs.

EXPECTED PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCESS

Council-approved work plan: No

Council Study Session: Yes

Reviewed by Boards/Commissions: Parks and Recreation Commission

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Position: Drop

Explanation: Current policy and code is very clear that public open space use must comply with established use.

Prepared By: Scott Morton, Superintendent of Parks and Golf

Reviewed By: Manuel Pineda, Director, Public Works

Reviewed By: Lisa Rosenblum, Director, Library and Community Services

Reviewed By: Robert A. Walker, Assistant City Manager

Approved By: Deanna J. Santana, City Manager